

To: Card, Joan[Card.Joan@epa.gov]
From: Jenkins, Laura Flynn
Sent: Wed 4/13/2016 9:10:43 PM
Subject: RE: OW, RANDY, R8 ACTION - Daily Caller (DDL COB today): GKM water quality

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

USEPA-Region 8

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From: Card, Joan
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 12:30 PM
To: Jenkins, Laura Flynn <Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov>
Cc: StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>; Wall, Tom <Wall.Tom@epa.gov>; Deitz, Randy <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov>; Loop, Travis <Loop.Travis@epa.gov>; Schollhamer, Mary <Schollhamer.Mary@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Belle, Kara <Belle.Kara@epa.gov>; Wells, Suzanne <Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: OW, RANDY, R8 ACTION - Daily Caller (DDL COB today): GKM water quality

Did ORD approve the "no different in content" language?

Joan Card

Senior Policy Advisor

Region 8

Sent from my EPA iPhone

On Apr 13, 2016, at 1:21 PM, Jenkins, Laura Flynn <Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov> wrote:

I'm fine if Joan is fine! ☺

Laura Jenkins

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From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 12:18 PM

To: Jenkins, Laura Flynn <Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov>; Wall, Tom <Wall.Tom@epa.gov>; Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov>; Deitz, Randy <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov>

Cc: Loop, Travis <Loop.Travis@epa.gov>; Schollhamer, Mary <Schollhamer.Mary@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Belle, Kara <Belle.Kara@epa.gov>; Wells, Suzanne <Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: OW, RANDY, R8 ACTION - Daily Caller (DDL COB today): GKM water quality

Some tweaks below. GTG from R8? OW?

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

From: Jenkins, Laura Flynn

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 1:41 PM

To: StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>; Wall, Tom <Wall.Tom@epa.gov>; Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov>; Deitz, Randy <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov>

Cc: Loop, Travis <Loop.Travis@epa.gov>; Schollhamer, Mary <Schollhamer.Mary@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Belle, Kara <Belle.Kara@epa.gov>; Wells, Suzanne <Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov>

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Christie:

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Thanks for the chance to review.

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

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From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 11:00 AM

To: Wall, Tom <Wall.Tom@epa.gov>; Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov>; Jenkins, Laura Flynn <Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov>; Deitz, Randy <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov>

Cc: Loop, Travis <Loop.Travis@epa.gov>; Schollhamer, Mary <Schollhamer.Mary@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Belle, Kara <Belle.Kara@epa.gov>; Wells, Suzanne <Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov>

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Ethan Barton is looking for our response on this by end of today. We've addressed most of this previously, so I'm just looking for OW, OLEM IO, and R8 approval before sending.

1. I understand that part of the monitoring plan at the Animas River involves monitoring contaminant levels during storms events. Does this monitoring also include the San Juan River?

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You'll find the sites listed on pages 13-15.

2. Does the EPA have a plan to protect human and wildlife health if that monitoring shows spiked contaminant levels during storm events?

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Here is some additional background on the region you may find useful.

EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) conducted a Superfund Site Assessment of the area in the 1990s. The assessment showed that water quality standards were not achieved in the Animas River near Silverton and identified the severe impacts to aquatic life in the Upper Animas and its tributaries from naturally occurring and mining-related heavy metals. In recognition of the community-based collaborative effort, EPA agreed to postpone adding all or a portion of the site to the Superfund NPL, as long as progress was being made to improve the water quality of the Animas River. Until approximately 2005, water quality in the Animas River was improving. However, since 2005, water quality in the Animas River has not improved and, for at least 20 miles below the confluence with Cement Creek and the water quality has declined significantly. Impacts to aquatic life were also demonstrated by fish population surveys conducted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, which found no fish in the Animas River below Cement Creek for approximately two miles and observed precipitous declines in fish populations as far as 20 miles downstream since 2005. Because of this declining water quality in the Animas River, in 2008, EPA's Superfund Site Assessment program began investigations in Upper Cement Creek focused on evaluating whether the Upper Cement Creek area alone would qualify for inclusion on the NPL. This evaluation indicated that the area would qualify, although after receiving additional community input, EPA postponed efforts to include the area on the National Priorities List. Since that time, EPA has continued and broadened its investigations of conditions at the site in order to understand the major sources of heavy metal contamination in the Upper Animas. SITE RISK: Mining operations have greatly disturbed the land, adding to existing highly mineralized conditions in many areas of the site. Mineralized waste rock exposed to air and water causes acidic conditions to mobilize the release of heavy metals to the surrounding environment. These heavy metals have found their way into the Animas River and its tributaries and have eventually traveled farther downstream.

3. How long will it take to complete cleaning at the Bonita Pike Mining District and how much will it cost? Additionally, what are the time and cost estimates to finish cleaning just Gold King Mine and the Animas River?

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